

## **Crow Lane Landfill Update—September 23, 2013**

This update is being provided by MassDEP concerning the closure activities that are currently underway at the Crow Lane Landfill.

In addition to this email update, correspondence and reports are posted on the MassDEP Northeast Region website at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/about/contacts/crow-lane-landfill-newburyport-monitoring-reports-data.html>. Please send your questions, comments and suggestions to: [crowlane.information@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:crowlane.information@massmail.state.ma.us).

## **Closure Activities, including Third-Party Evaluation of the Landfill Gas System and Flare**

On Wednesday and Thursday, September 18-19, 2013, Blue Granite continued its work on the landfill gas system and flare, together with Mike Quatromoni, Engineer of Record for the landfill. Some key items:

- On Wednesday, Blue Granite installed a new controller for the flare. Blue Granite set the new controller to shut the flare down if the temperature drops to 1400 degrees. The controller and setting was tested and found to promptly shut off the flare and flow of landfill gas to the flare if the temperature in the flare dropped to 1400 degrees.
- With the new controller in place, and working, the flare is no longer being manually cycled on and off on a daily basis; since Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, the flare is being run in a continuous mode.
- Now that the flare has been cleaned, repaired and is running more consistently, Blue Granite plans to run the flare continuously for a period of time, to ensure the flare is now working properly and to get to the landfill to a steady state. Once the landfill gas has stabilized, Blue Granite will have better information to finish its evaluation and recommendations. Blue Granite is expected to return to the landfill in early October to continue its work, including balancing the well field, based on gas flow and quality from the various well heads.
- This morning, Monday, September 23, 2013, the flare was found to have shut down at approximately 6:00 p.m. last (Sunday) night. This indicates that the temperature must have hit 1400 degrees, successfully triggering the automatic shutdown. New Ventures personnel checked and restarted the flare early this morning. New Ventures, SITEC and Blue Granite, are monitoring the flare's operation.
- MassDEP and Shaw are also currently visiting the landfill on a daily basis, including this past Saturday and Sunday. MassDEP staff visited the landfill this morning (Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>), during the time when the flare was not operating. MassDEP staff did not observe any odor during this visit.
- Selection of the auto-dialer, which will send an automatic alert by telephone if certain conditions occur, is in process. In the meantime, New Ventures will have staff checking

the flare on a daily basis until the auto-dialer is installed and operational. MassDEP and Shaw will also continue to visit the landfill and monitor the flare's operation.

- Information regarding landfill gas header: Currently, landfill gas is being collected and piped through the original header, although NV did install a new header as part of the project. The new header is located above the flexible membrane liner layer (FML) of the landfill cap. Blue Granite and SITEC Environmental are in the process of evaluating both the existing, original header and the new header. It is possible that SITEC and Blue Granite may recommend to continue using the original header if it is operating properly and hold the new header in reserve should future circumstances warrant. No final decision will be made on this issue until the evaluation is completed and recommendations, supported by engineering data, are made.
- Recent complaint: A resident reported an odor observation on Low Street late on Saturday night. MassDEP is looking into this complaint. MassDEP plans to do some spot observations around the neighborhoods in the coming days; please send emails ASAP following any observations to increase the likelihood that we might observe what you are reporting.
- MassDEP and/or its consultant Shaw Environmental will continue to monitor the landfill during this interim period of flare operation, and will visit the landfill daily. As noted above, we will also conduct some inspection rounds of the neighborhoods to make observations.

### **Department Oversight**

The Department and/or Shaw personnel are currently monitoring the landfill on a daily basis. MassDEP and/or Shaw personnel plans to be at the Landfill each day until the auto-dialer is installed and operational. MassDEP and Shaw will also be onsite for the continued inspection and evaluation of the landfill gas system and flare by Blue Granite at the beginning of October.

MassDEP has been communicating directly with Mayor Holaday, Senator O'Connor-Ives and Representative Costello on a regular basis to inform them of progress on the landfill closure process. MassDEP will send an additional update next week regarding New Ventures' closure activities.